Case 3256

Leptusa Kraatz, 1856 and *Cyllopisalia* Pace, 1982 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the generic name *Leptusa* Kraatz, 1856 and subgeneric name *Cyllopisalia* Pace, 1982 for a widespread group of rove beetles (family STAPHYLINIDAE). Both names are threatened by limited usage of a senior synonym, *Sipalia* Mulsant & Rey, 1853. The use of *Sipalia* in place of *Leptusa* causes great confusion because from 1909 to 1974 most authors used the name *Sipalia* for the rove beetle genus now known as *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858. It is proposed that the name *Sipalia* should be suppressed.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; ALEOCHARINAE; *Leptusa*; *Cyllopisalia*; *Geostiba*; *Bolitochara pulchella*; *Aleochara circellaris*; rove beetles.

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1. Mulsant & Rey (1853, p. 32) described *Sipalia* (family STAPHYLINIDAE) as a subgenus of *Homalota* Mannerheim, 1830, and included six rove beetle species. Three of these, including *Homalota difformis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853 (p. 33), are now placed in *Leptusa* Kraatz, 1856 (p. 60), two are in *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858 (p. 33), and one is in *Octavius* Fauvel, 1873. They did not designate a type species for *Sipalia*.

2. Kraatz (1856, p. 60) described the genus *Leptusa* for eleven nominal species (among them '*Leptusa analis* Gyllenhal, 1810' (p. 388) and *Homalota* (*Sipalia*) *difformis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853), but did not designate a type species. Thomson (1859, p. 32) designated '*Leptusa analis* Gyllenhal, 1810' as the type species of *Leptusa*, but this is an unavailable name and a misidentification of *Bolitochara pulchella* Mannerheim, 1830 (see Pope, 1977, p. 34) and Thomson's designation was thus invalid. *Bolitochara pulchella* Mannerheim, 1830 (p. 83) has been designated as the type species of *Leptusa* Kraatz, 1856 under Article 70.3.2 (see Gusarov & Herman, 2003). Pace (1983, p. 57) had earlier but invalidly cited *B. pulchella* as the type species of *Leptusa*.

3. Thomson (1859, p. 40) designated *Homalota brachyptera* Thomson, 1852 as the type species of *Sipalia*, but this designation is invalid because this nominal species was not originally included in the genus (see Article 67.2.1).

4. Fauvel (1902a, p. 40) validly designated *Homalota difformis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853 (p. 33) as the type species of *Sipalia* Mulsant & Rey, 1853. However, as *Homalota difformis* was already a member of *Leptusa* (see Kraatz, 1856, p. 66; Bernhauer, 1900, p. 420), Fauvel used *Sipalia* (1853) instead of *Leptusa* (1856) as the senior synonym (see Fauvel, 1902b, p. 158).

5. Evidently most workers overlooked Fauvel's type designation for *Sipalia*. The name *Leptusa* continued to be used for the genus that included *Homalota difformis*, the type species of *Sipalia* (see Bernhauer, 1905, p. 250; Reitter, 1909, p. 80; Bernhauer & Scheerpeltz, 1926, p. 553; Scheerpeltz, 1966, p. 18; and in at least 72 other works by 25 authors before 1974). At the same time the name *Sipalia* was used for the genus now known as *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858 (p. 33) (type species by monotypy: *Aleochara circellaris* Gravenhorst, 1806 (p. 155) (see Sainte-Claire Deville, 1906, p. 127; Reitter, 1909, p. 45; Bernhauer & Scheerpeltz, 1926, p. 599; Scheerpeltz, 1934, p. 1585; and in at least 56 works by 20 authors from 1909 to 1974).

6. Lohse (1974, p. 42) and Benick & Lohse (1974, p. 111) directed attention to the synonymy of *Sipalia* and *Leptusa* and acknowledged that the former had priority over the latter, but nevertheless used *Leptusa*, not *Sipalia*, as the valid name. Their reason for this was to avoid confusion with *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858, which had been referred to incorrectly as *Sipalia* for nearly 70 years. Most staphylinid workers accepted this approach, even though it was not valid under the Code.

7. Scheerpeltz (1966, p. 18) described *Parapisalia* as a subgenus of *Leptusa* Kraatz, 1856 and designated *Homalota difformis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853 (p. 33) as the type species. However, this name is a junior objective synonym of *Sipalia* and a junior homonym of *Parapisalia* Scheerpeltz, 1948 (p. 159) (type species: *Leptusa puellaris* Hampe, 1863 by original designation). It would appear that in 1966 Scheerpeltz overlooked his previous usage of the name *Parapisalia*.

8. Pace (1982, p. 40) proposed the name *Cyllopisalia* (type species: *Homalota difformis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853 (p. 33); see Article 67.8) to replace *Parapisalia* Scheerpeltz, 1966. Pace stated that, according to a 'strict interpretation of the Code', *Sipalia* (*Sipalia*) Mulsant & Rey, 1853 would be the valid name for this subgenus. He then argued that the name *Sipalia* must not be conserved because it had been used for the familiar genus known as *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858 for more than half a century. Whatever the merits of these arguments of prevailing use by Lohse (1974) and Pace (1982), the Code does not allow the reversal of precedence of *Leptusa* or *Cyllopisalia* over *Sipalia* without application to the Commission, as the conditions of Article 23.9.1 are not met.

9. *Leptusa* (tribe HOMALOTINI) is a well-known genus that includes more than 400 species and subspecies distributed in the Holarctic and Oriental regions, temperate South America and subantarctic islands. This name has been used by more than 34 authors in at least 97 works published during the last 50 years; a record of these is held by the Commission Secretariat. However as *Sipalia* has been used in seven works (Sawada, 1970a, p. 40; 1970b, p. 34; 1990, p. 541; Burakowski et al., 1981, p. 40; Borowiec, 1990, p. 820; Mazur, 1995, p. 75; 2000, p. 16) in this period, the name *Leptusa* is prevented from 'automatic' conservation under Article 23.9.2. The

subgenus *Cyllopisalia* Pace, 1982 currently includes 18 species and subspecies distributed in France and Italy, but this name has been used in only four papers by one author (Pace, 1982, p. 40; 1989, p. 140; 1996, p. 27; 1999, p. 211).

10. Acceptance of strict priority and the use of *Sipalia* in place of *Leptusa* would seriously threaten universality and cause significant confusion. This is because from 1909 to 1974 most authors (see para. 6 above) used the name *Sipalia* for the genus now known as *Geostiba* (tribe ATHETINI). Consequently, it is important that the name *Sipalia* Mulsant & Rey, 1853 is suppressed to stabilize the nomenclature and avoid confusion between *Sipalia* as a senior synonym of *Leptusa* and *Cyllopisalia*, and *Sipalia* of authors as used for *Geostiba* Thomson, 1859.

11. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary power to suppress the generic name *Sipalia* Mulsant & Rey, 1853 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *Leptusa* Kraatz, 1856 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Gusarov & Herman (2003) *Bolitochara pulchella* Mannerheim, 1830;
   (b) *Cyllopisalia* Pace, 1982 (gender: feminine), type species, by original designation of the replaced nominal genus *Parapisalia* Scheerpeltz, 1966, *Homalota difformis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853;
   (c) *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Aleochara circellaris* Gravenhorst, 1806;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *pulchella* Mannerheim, 1830, as published in the binomen *Bolitochara pulchella* (specific name of the type species of *Leptusa* Kraatz, 1856);
   (b) *difformis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853, as published in the binomen *Homalota difformis* (specific name of the type species of *Cyllopisalia* Pace, 1982);
   (c) *circellaris* Gravenhorst, 1806, as published in the binomen *Aleochara circellaris* (specific name of the type species of *Geostiba* Thomson, 1858);

(4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *Sipalia* Mulsant & Rey, 1853, as suppressed in (1) above;
   (b) *Parapisalia* Scheerpeltz, 1966 (a junior homonym of *Parapisalia* Scheerpeltz, 1948).

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